

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23, 25, 26, 28-48, 95-112 and 169-172 are currently pending, wherein claims 1, 11, 20, 22, 28, 38, 47, 95, and 169-172 are independent. Claims 24, 27, 49-94 and 113-168 have been canceled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the acceptance by the Patent Office of the drawings filed on September 27, 2004.

Applicant further notes with appreciation the acknowledgment by the Patent Office of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted to the Patent Office on June 7, 2004.

Applicant hereby affirms the election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-23, 25, 26, 28-48, 95-112 and 169-172. The claims of Group II (i.e., claims 24, 27 and 113-168) have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

In the eighth section of the Office Action, claims 1-23, 25, 26, 28-48 and 95-112 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/184,302. Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the present non-statutory double patenting rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

In the ninth section of the Office Action, claims 1-23, 25, 26, 28-48 and 95-112 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double

patenting, as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 20-23, 38-41, 56-59 and 74-85 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/184,299. Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the present non-statutory double patenting rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

In the tenth section of the Office Action, claims 1-23, 25, 26, 28-48 and 95-112 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-10, 26-34 and 50-53 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/184,505. Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the present non-statutory double patenting rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, because the Amendment places the application in condition for appeal for the reasons discussed herein, and does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicant's attorney, Andrew J. Bateman, by telephone at (202) 625-3547. All correspondence should be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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